

**To:** Piggott, Amelia[Piggott.Amelia@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wharton, Steve  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 3:32:17 PM  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill  
Draft Responses for AP Questions 150814.docx

Amelia – For your use.

**From:** Wharton, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 9:21 AM  
**To:** Sisk, Richard; Madigan, Andrea  
**Cc:** Stavnes, Sandra  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Richard/Andrea – Here is a first draft of responses to the AP questions listed below.

Thanks,  
Steve

**From:** Stavnes, Sandra  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 7:21 AM  
**To:** Ostrander, David; Wharton, Steve  
**Cc:** Madigan, Andrea; Sisk, Richard; Piggott, Amelia; Smith, Paula; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Mylott, Richard; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

David

I will have folks here today help work on draft answers to give you a start. Steve Wharton is in and can help.

Steve-can you look at the questions below and coordinate answers with LEP to get something back to David this am?

Sandy

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Sandra A. Stavnes

Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator

Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation (8EPR)

USEPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

email: [stavnes.sandra@epa.gov](mailto:stavnes.sandra@epa.gov)

phone: 303-312-6117

**From:** Ostrander, David

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 6:38 AM

**To:** Stavnes, Sandra

**Cc:** Madigan, Andrea; Sisk, Richard; Piggott, Amelia; Smith, Paula; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Mylott, Richard; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

**Subject:** Re: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Just now finding this email. Still need answers. Some of this can be found in SEMS

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 4:06 PM, Stavnes, Sandra <[Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov](mailto:Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov)> wrote:

Sandy

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Sandra A. Stavnes

Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator

Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation (8EPR)

USEPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

email: [stavnes.sandra@epa.gov](mailto:stavnes.sandra@epa.gov)

phone: 303-312-6117

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:11 PM

**To:** Stavnes, Sandra

**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Sandy"

Lisa M-V thought you might be able to address the questions below from Associated Press. The HQ EOC needs a response from R8 ASAP.

Is this something you can prepare and, if not, to whom should I redirect?

Thanks,

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St.

Mailcode: 8-OC

Denver, CO 80202

Landline: 303-312-6256

Cell: 202-360-8453

Fax: 303-312-6961

**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:00 PM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Subject:** RE: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Sorry – I thought Rich might respond to this.

I think Sandy Stavnes is best.

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Office 303.312.6077

Cell 303.501.4027

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:32 PM

**To:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Lisa:

HQ EOC just called and wants to know the status of our responses. If you can give me some folks to reach out to for responses, I'm happy to follow-up. Who in SF can I work with on responses or would you prefer to handle this one?

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St.

Mailcode: 8-OC

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Landline: 303-312-6256

Cell: 202-360-8453

Fax: 303-312-6961

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:39 AM

**To:** Rich Mylott ([Mylott.Richard@epa.gov](mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov)); Lisa McClain-Vanderpool ([Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov))

**Subject:** ACTION REQUIRED - AP Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Rich and Lisa:

Several Qs from AP were routed to us from the EOC. How do you want to answer response development?

Laura

1) Had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

4) Was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

5) It's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** Fw: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hi All,

Please see note below. Could you all work on 1, 4, and the first part of 5? Thanks!

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:17 PM  
**To:** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Cc:** Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana  
**Subject:** Re: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Thanks! I will send those on to the region.

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**From:** Dreyfus, Melissa G. on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:14 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information  
**Cc:** Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana  
**Subject:** Re: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hello,

We believe questions #1 and 4 would be best answered by Region 8, as well as the first part of #5. OSRTI will work on #2, 3 and 5b.

Thanks

Melissa

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:30 PM  
**To:** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Subject:** Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hi,

These are a subset of questions from Associated Press re: Superfund and the spill. Thanks!

- 1) --had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?
- 2) --how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?
- 3)--is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?
- 4)-was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?
- 5)--it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?